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## Fonthill building boom begins



MAYORAL PHOTO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn and David Allen of Fonthill Gardens Inc. are pictured at the Village of East Fonthill groundbreaking ceremony on Friday in Fonthill. See story on page 2.



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# UPFRONT

## ■ VILLAGE OF EAST FonthILL

# Ground broken on development

**MARYANNE FIRTH**  
Postmedia Network

The creation of the Village of East Fonthill began with a single shovel of soil.

Well, that and decades of work to bring the development to fruition.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held last Friday to celebrate the start of construction of the joint project between Town of Pelham and Fonthill Gardens Inc.

Something 25 years in the making is becoming a reality today," Mayor Dave Augustyn told the dozens of people who gathered for the ceremony on the Regional Rd. 20 lands just west of Rice Rd.

The background noise of busy construction equipment marked the transition from "generations of thinking and planning," to physically getting the development underway, he said.

"We have worked together to jump those hurdles and complete a 25-year steeples-chase."

The Village of East Fonthill comprises about 50 acres of the massive East Fonthill Development's 450 acres and is jointly owned by the town and Fonthill Gardens Inc.

The mixed-use area will include a medical facility, retirement residence, a pond, a 10,000-square-foot Well-spring Niagara cancer support centre, as well as commercial and retail space, and food establishments.

The hope is to also see a multi-faceted community centre and arena included.

With upper-tier government representatives in attendance, Augustyn made sure to mention Pelham is hopeful it can count on the provincial and federal government to help fund the recreation centre.

The town's chief adminis-

trative officer, Darren Orta-way, believes the project has Pelham raising the bar when it comes to urban design and development in Niagara.

"We have established something that's going to be unique," he said, while highlighting the efforts made during the design process to ensure creation of a walkable community that's also easily accessible and safe for cyclists and motorists.

The centre of the develop-

ment will include a woonerf — a large urban square originating from the Netherlands.

"It's a place the community comes together," Ottaway said, adding it's a shared space that will be used by drivers, cyclists and pedestrians but will contain no stop signs, stop lights or other similar infrastructure.

It's a space, he said, where "vehicles and pedestrians can interact using their own intelligence."

Augustyn stressed the

design is meant to allow Pelham to maintain its "small town feel" as it continues to grow.

David Allen of Fonthill Gardens Inc. expressed his appreciation for "the leadership and co-operation we've received from council" on the project.

While there have been "a lot of wrinkles to work out," Allen said he's looking forward to "moving on from this first step."

Augustyn said passersby

can expect to see a lot of activity on the property throughout the summer as "preliminary construction" gets underway with the installation of underground infrastructure and the creation of roadways.

It's expected that by fall, construction crews will be able to begin putting in the concrete pads for the development, he said.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @mfrithtribune



SUPPLIED IMAGE

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday for the Village of East Fonthill development.



MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn and David Allen, of Fonthill Gardens Inc., weren't afraid to get their hands dirty at the Village of East Fonthill groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, June 19, 2015, in Pelham, Ont.

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## ■ ECONOMY

# South Niagara could end up paying for two airports

KAREN WALTER  
Postmedia Network

Niagara District Airport could bring millions of dollars in economic benefit to the area if Niagara Region takes it over.

The commission that currently operates the airport is advocating just such a plan — one that would leave South Niagara residents funding two airports.

Members from St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake — the municipalities that fund the north Niagara airport — will ask their councils to support transferring operations to Niagara Region.

Wentland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet taxpayers are already financing Niagara Central Doris Ringling Airport.

Niagara District Airport commissioners say the time is now for their plan, and they have a business case to move the airport from general aviation to one that supports international flights.

It does serve an important purpose, it is an asset for the region. But it could be so much more," said Mike Britton, a St. Catharines council member on the commission. "That's what we're focused on."

While the idea isn't new, Britton said the commission wants to go to the region with a unified voice to show they're ready to make the move.

Airport manager Len O'Connor said the idea of the region taking over the airport has been discussed since 1995, but it took a jump with the commission in recent years.

An airport feasibility study conducted in 2013 was expected to support expanded domestic traffic for tourism, but instead found the biggest surge could be trans-border traffic from New York, Chicago, Boston and Washington.

O'Connor said the next step was to determine how to take the airport in that direction. That requires infrastructure for security and screening for outgoing and incoming flights by the Canadian Air Transport Security Agency and Canada Border Services Agency.

O'Connor said the business case

presented said the infrastructure could be provided for less than \$8 million.

"If an airport is used right, it is a huge economic impact driver," O'Connor said.

He estimates the airport currently produces \$25 million in economic impact a year. The feasibility study showed that one daily flight over a six-month period would have an economic impact of \$9 million.

Niagara Falls city councillor and commission member Joyce Morocco said the airport needs to be under the umbrella of the region so everybody has the responsibility to move it forward.

"We said listen, this is a time we really have to sit down and say 'where are we going with this?' As these municipalities, we just can't do it. We need to have the region come in and take responsibility."

Morocco said growing the airport will make the entire region more viable. It won't just benefit tourism, she said, but will play a huge role for industry.

"The GO Train would be great, but the airport is a long time coming," she said. "I think we either have to step up the plate and make it happen or say forget it."

On Monday, Britton was to ask St. Catharines city council to dissolve the existing joint municipal service board operating the airport commission and transfer operations to the region. Niagara-on-the-Lake was to discuss a similar motion that night, and Niagara Falls was to do so on Tuesday.

Regional Chair Alan Caslin said he thinks there could be a role for the region to play with the airport, but can't start any formal conversations with the governing municipalities until they're all in alignment on the issue.

"It is a major component of our regional council strategic plan on moving people and goods," Caslin said.

"We think that further integrating the Niagara District Airport may have an important role in our regional economy and would be a great benefit to Niagara."

Britton said the consultant's report said the Niagara District Airport only needs to capture 5% of flights that go

into Hamilton or Buffalo to be profitable.

That's 5% of the 643,000 people who fly into Buffalo and Hamilton airports and then come into Niagara each year.

"It's a rare opportunity where we can spend less money and actually have a better service," Britton said.

But commission treasurer Terry Flynn, a Niagara-on-the-Lake councillor, said having the region take over is not just about expanding the airport. It's also about maintaining what's there.

The airport has a \$300,000 operational budget granted by the three municipalities, based on per capita. But Flynn said the air-

port is back at zero. One level of government will mean less bureaucracy, he said. Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake have said yes to some capital money, and St. Catharines was to vote on granting early budget approval of \$151,000 on Monday.

"We're doing our part for the taxpayers right now, but we can only Scotch tape it together for so long before we start having issues, and that's what's happening," Flynn said.

"We've been running like this since 2011 and at some point, someone has to start ponying up."

And with three municipalities involved, if one says no to funding, Flynn said the air-

karen.walter@postmedia.ca

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# East Fonthill finally proceeding

DAVE AUGUSTYN  
For PelhamNews

Last Friday afternoon, town council, staff and consultants; federal, provincial and regional representatives; and landowner representatives gathered to break ground for the east Fonthill development.

Why was it a historic moment for Pelham? Because 25 years of thinking, discussing and planning have finally become action and construction.

Former mayor Ralph Beamer told me that it took more than a decade to get Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) approval in 2000 to expand Pelham's built boundary from east of Station St. to Rice Rd. — creating the 450 acres of "East Fonthill."

But the OMB ruled that the town needed

to undertake more detailed planning — called a secondary plan — before development could proceed. Pelham's 2000-03 council hired the Planning Partnership to work together with the community and area developers to finalize the plan.

The 2003-06 council, led by former mayor Ron Leavens, purchased 32 acres of land at the corner of Hwy. 20 and Rice Rd. to build recreational facilities and playing fields, and to construct a gateway feature. That council also gave control of the secondary plan to private sector-developers — hoping it could be completed more quickly.

Since 2006, council and I took back the leadership of the secondary plan and, with exceptional planning and legal resources, worked together with the development community, Niagara Region and the public to complete the plan and get OMB approval in

January 2014.

Then we overcame the next obstacle by thinking more broadly. We notionally erased ownership lines and thought not just about the town lands or the commercial/mixed use lands, but about how we might ensure this new area could improve the rest of the town. And, council directed town chief administrative officer Darren Ottaway to work very closely with the commercial developer to design a great development.

This great development not only includes new commercial, retail and food establishments, but also a medical centre, a significant retirement residence, and new Wellspring Niagara Cancer Support Centre. This development also includes a gateway pond, pedestrian- and cycle-friendly paths and roads, a two-acre public square, new parks and protection of significant envi-

ronmental features — all linked to existing community.

Finally, the development also includes space for a potential community centre with a single-pad arena, expandable to two ice pads, fitness facility and walking track, double gymnasium, and multi-purpose and performing arts space.

With the excitement, determination and hard work of so many people, we have worked together to complete this 25-year steep-chase. This groundbreaking signifies the start of construction of a more integrated and complete community and puts council's vision of a more vibrant, creative and caring Pelham into action.

You may contact Mayor Dave at [mayordave@pelham.ca](mailto:mayordave@pelham.ca) with questions or to suggest future topics. Check out past columns at [www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com](http://www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com).

# Former Yvonne wrecked off India with large spill

SKIP GILHAM  
For Postmedia Network



This Harry Stott photo shows Yvonne at Montreal in May 1967.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Greek tanker *Yvonne* came through the St. Lawrence Seaway during Canada's centennial year. It was inbound for Evergas Shipping Co. Inc. in 1967 but it was not a frequent caller to our shores.

This was originally the Norwegian vessel *Holmgar*. The 154.2-metre-long liquid cargo carrier was built at Port Glasgow, Scotland, in 1951 and became *Yvonne* in 1965. It moved to Somali Republic interests as *Roula E.K.* In 1969, became *Yvonne* again, under the Panama flag. In 1970 before acquiring a final name of *Cosmos Pioneer* late that year for service under the flag of India.

*Cosmos Pioneer* ran aground and was wrecked in heavy weather on June 17, 1972. The ship was about seven kilometres off the Porbander Light and was carrying an estimated 13,000 tonnes of fuel and diesel oil in its 20 cargo tanks. *Cosmos Pioneer* was on a voyage between the Indian ports of Bombay and Kandla when it was lost off the northwest coast.

Four members of the crew perished in the tragedy and another 49 were injured as the ship was abandoned. The hull ultimately broke up, releasing the cargo into the sea. The spill impacted local shrimp and lobster beds but much of the oil was dispersed avoiding an even worse catastrophe.

## ■ HOME SALES

## From Toronto, with money

DON FRASER  
Postmedia Network

It's a mass-migration known throughout the real estate world.

June 30 is the biggest, craziest closing day of the year. Families with school-aged kids often find it most convenient to move that day, with the Canada Day long weekend giving people an extra day to unpack.

"Oh man, it goes totally nuts," Cotte Drinkwater, Niagara franchise owner of Two Men and a Truck movers, said with a laugh. "And we're totally booked — we can't handle anything more at the end of the month."

The summer stays pretty busy for us, but that weekend is just unbelievable. All of our movers will be out.

"We do our best to make sure everything is scheduled so there are no issues."

Meanwhile, local housing affordability — and especially GTA commuters and buyers — are becoming big factors in real estate deals throughout Niagara.

Compared to swelling real estate prices in Toronto and Vancouver, this region remains friendly for cost-conscious home buyers.

According to a December Overview produced by the Niagara Association of Realtors, the average resale home price in Niagara for 2014 was \$261,431. That compares to \$238,742 in 2013.

It's a different story in Toronto, where the average price of a detached home recently topped \$1 million, according to the city's real estate board.

"Affordability in Niagara is still intact," said Patrick Burke, a sales representative with Sally McGarr Realty Corp.,

## HIGHER END PROPERTIES

In Toronto, homes topping \$1 million in value are routine, but in Niagara, they're part of an elite market.

Patrick Burke of Sally McGarr Realty Corp. said last year, there were at least 21 of those properties sold in Niagara.

Niagara-on-the-Lake topped the list at 11, six were sold in Niagara Falls, two in Fonthill and two in St. Catharines.

Buyers cross the gamut from local professionals and businesspeople to wealthier retirees and the Asian market.

Some have it as a second

property. "It's a real range of buyers," he said. As for Toronto buyers, "they'll still look at pricing and historical data, as any buyer should."

"They're not coming from Mississauga with their Mississauga-values (perceptions) while looking down here," he said, adding that means local high-value properties must be priced accordingly.

"We get that from some sellers — 'How do you reach the Toronto people?' In fact, the Toronto people are coming here (and looking at these properties) every day."

based in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"People getting into the market here are not getting priced out of it."

While house hunters must still diligently ferret out good deals, "people don't have to get financially stretched to get into the market here ... and mortgage interest rates are still very good," Burke said.

For those homebuyers with one foot in the GTA, housing purchase choices are steadily moving east, observes Stephen Oliver, president of the Niagara Association of Realtors.

"We're seeing a push from the GTA out, now," said Oliver, who is also a sales rep with Coldwell Banker Momentum in Fort Erie.

"It used to be Grimsby, then west St. Catharines (real estate) was the cutoff for GTA commuters. Now, it seems it's even gone to Niagara Falls, where they may be commuting to Oakville and Burling-

ton." Retirees from outside Niagara have joined the home-buying tide here, he adds. Burke is feeling the GTA push as well.

"I think if you polled the top 30 agents in St. Catharines, they'd say there's a significant trend coming from that crowd," he said.

"They're not buying one particular style," Burke adds, noting choices include detached homes, new construction and townhomes.

"It's the old cliché — they're selling for \$700,000 to \$1.2 million there and buying here for \$300,000 to 400,000."

Concerns about rock-low mortgage rates spiking up — a preoccupation in recent years — has also eased considerably, Burke said.

"The market itself is in a comfortable position, where these rates are (felt to be) the new norm," he said.

"How will the market change if rates start to creep



DON TYMCZYK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Home at 10 Shore Blvd. in St. Catharines that is listed at \$1.495-million. The high-end luxury home is one of several properties in Niagara available for more than \$1 million.

up? We'll see."

For new home sales, it's fast becoming GTA all the way, agrees Niagara Home Builders' Association president Ed Lucchetta.

"In general, at least 50% of the new homes that are being sold in Niagara are being sold to people outside of Niagara," he said. "They're coming from Burlington and the GTA, basically. They're selling their homes, coming here and buying a better product at a more affordable price."

Niagara's ideal location, amenities, calmer traffic and decent climate are other factors prompting this trend, he said.

"The market here is very robust," Lucchetta said.

"Everybody seems to be extremely busy, and there's a shortage of good, quality tradespeople that all home-builders are struggling with today."

Lucchetta said bungalow purchases are also trending higher in the area.

"People are moving to Niagara for bungalow-type living," said the owner of Welland-based Lucchetta Homes.

"You're not stuck with the GTA mentality, where (they)

## HIGH SELLERS

What are some of the prices and locations of currently listed high-end properties?

The Sally McGarr website offers a few examples, as of Wednesday:  
Lincoln: 2409 North Service Rd. \$1.8 million.  
St. Catharines: 1244

Lakeshore Rd. \$1.5 million.  
St. Catharines: 10 Shore Blvd. \$1.495 million.  
St. Catharines: 45 Forest Hill Rd. \$1.3 million.  
St. Catharines: 25 Graham Ave. \$1.194 million.  
NOTL: 43 Elizabeth St., \$929,000.

basically build two-story homes or townhouses ... here, half of the product built is bungalows, and it's hard to find that, out of this area."

Many are people relocating with home offices and who are working out of their new homes in the region.

Niagara Region has also taken notice of the healthy housing market.

Mary Lou Tanner, the Region's chief planner, said 1,300 residential building permits were issued in 2012. That jumped to 1,822 the next year and more than 2,000 in 2014. Tanner calls it a "significant trend upwards."

"We are seeing GTA and Hamilton-area driven growth," she said, pointing especially

to west Niagara.

To that end, there's a desire to balance the pluses of living in the region, with job locations further west of the Region.

Tanner said smaller household sizes are another general pattern regionally, especially in St. Catharines, central and southern areas of Niagara.

"It means there's more housing units needed, because there are fewer people in the houses," she said.

Tanner said the changing demographics are also influencing the choice in residences.

"And of course, we are seeing that migration from the GTA as well, which is also driving that demand."

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **COMMUNITY:** Celebration welcomes Pan Am symbol to the Rose City

## Hundreds cheer on Games torch

MARYANNE FIRTH  
Postmedia Network

Here to cheer!

The words were imprinted not only on the flags handed out to visitors to Welland market square Saturday, but also on the minds of those who lined the streets to welcome the 2015 Pan Am Games torch to the Rose City.

Festivities kicked off at market square, where hundreds gathered to watch the torch lit for the city's first torchbearer, former Olympic skier and Niagara Falls native Nancy Gee.

It was an event Cheryl Stranges wasn't about to miss.

The Welland resident was present when the Olympic torch came through her hometown in December 2009. She remembers the excitement of the day and the community and national pride. It's an experience she wanted to relive Saturday at the market.

Being chosen to host Pan Am Games competitions gives Welland the opportunity to showcase what it has to offer, including its beautiful waterway, Stranges said.

Residents, she added, should take pride in the fact the world will be watching the Rose City from July 11 to 14.

Pride could be seen in the red Canada T-shirts and sup-



PHOTOS BY MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Betty Huard, Wayne Jaroslawski and Cheryl Stranges were excited to catch a glimpse of the Pan Am Games torch on Saturday in Welland.

portive signs that lined the torch relay route, which went from market square, down King St. to Lincoln St., where an additional stop was made at the Welland Community Wellness Complex.

The cavalcade leading the way for the city's torchbearers then travelled down King St. to Ontario Rd., onto Prince

Charles Dr. and onto Colborne St.

That's where Matthew Fraracci and family eagerly awaited the arrival of his aunt, Mariann Zorge, who was also chosen for the honour.

"It makes me proud to be Canadian," Fraracci said, calling it "pretty cool" that his family was able to be a part of

history.

"This is definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

After arriving at Colborne St., the torch switched hands a number of times as it moved along the canal side before entering the water with help from members of the South Niagara Canoe Club.

Carried by 15-year-old club



Nancy Gee excitedly thrusts the torch for the 2015 Pan Am Games into the air during a celebration at Welland Farmers Market on Saturday.

member Lillian Culp, the torch circled the waterway in front of the Welland Pan Am Flatwater Centre before returning to shore and ending the city's portion of the relay.

"We couldn't have asked for a better day," said Welland Pan Am co-ordinator Cassandra Magazzeni, who

was pleased with the sunny weather and large turnout.

"Thank you to all the residents and visitors for the support they showed today," she said. "We look forward to seeing everyone back here in a couple weeks."

maryanne.firth@postmedia.ca  
Twitter: @mfirth@bune

Pelham  
NIAGARA

50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
of the flag

On behalf of Council and Town staff, I wish you and your family a very Happy Canada Day!

Also, I extend my sincere appreciation to the volunteers, businesses and staff who have contributed to this year's Canada Day celebrations.

I hope that you will join us at Harold Black Park and Peace Park on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 to celebrate our nation and our vibrant, creative and caring community.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

*Mayor Dave Augustyn*



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## RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES

### Zumba Classes @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday, June 30	9:30 – 10:30 am
Tuesday, June 30	7:00 – 8:00 pm
Wednesday, July 1	NO CLASS (holiday)
Thursday, July 2	10:00-11:00 am

### Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! - June 30 & July 2

Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join ours! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am & Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am. For more info, contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.



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Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup>



**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**CANADA DAY 2015**

### Take part in the FUN at HAROLD BLACK PARK

11:00 am Rotary Club Children's Activities (until 1pm)  
Food & Mental Wellness (all ages)  
Municipal Mural at Park Entrance (until 1pm)  
1:00 pm Grand Parade from A.J. Wigg School to Harold Black Park  
2:00 pm Opening Ceremonies & Singing of the National Anthem  
2:30 pm Fire Birthday Cake, while quantities last  
3:30 pm Use music & entertainment in the tent under the big trees  
4:00 pm Winked & Dressed Humane Society Pet Show  
4:30 pm Highlights of Columbus County Challenge  
4:40 pm Inshore Fishing Contest sponsored by the Fonthill Lions Club  
4:50 pm Kitchener 8000 Street Team  
5:00 pm Kitchener 8000 Street Team  
5:10 pm Fireworks

### Take part in the FUN at PEACE PARK

2:30 pm Free Birthday Cake, while quantities last  
3:30 pm Musical entertainment by Harvest Festival 2015 & 2016

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**WHAT:** Site Plan Manual - SECOND STAKEHOLDER OPEN HOUSE  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 2:30pm  
**WHERE:** Old Pelham Town Hall (491 Canboro Road, Ridgville)

**GET INFORMED**  
The Town of Pelham is proposing a new Site Plan Manual. Site Plan Process and Fees that will outline expectations and requirements for all future Site Plan Applications. It is expected that this site plan update will allow applicants a better understanding of the Town's expectations regarding Site Plan Submissions, thereby reducing the necessity for revisions, and resulting in shorter processing times.

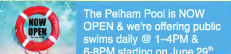
As such, Town Planning Staff will host a second open house to solicit final feedback from stakeholders and the public, prior to formalizing a recommendation on the topic. The updated Draft Site Plan Manual is available for review on the Town's Website at [www.pelham.ca/planning-meetings-notices](http://www.pelham.ca/planning-meetings-notices). This is the final opportunity for comments.

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The Friends of Pelham are excited to announce the painting of a new mural in the heart of Pelham. The mural will be painted on the side of the building at the intersection of Highway 20 and Main Street. The mural will depict the history of Pelham and the surrounding area. The event will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, from 10:00am to 3:00pm. All are welcome to participate. For more information, contact the Friends of Pelham at 905-892-2607 ext. 329.



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Return Trip? Y N When?

Please submit your comments in the box provided at Town Hall.

## SCIENCE

# Methane offers chance of life on Mars

**ROB HOULE**  
Postmedia Network

The planet Mars has gas. That recent discovery by a team of scientists, including Brock University assistant professor Nigel Blamey, suggests the Red Planet could

sustain life, although not the bipedal kind.

"When we're looking for life on Mars, it's not what we perhaps as humans expect—something walking across the surface. It's most likely going to be in the form of bacteria, micro-organisms," Blamey

says in an audio clip released by Brock.

Blamey is currently conducting research in New Mexico and could not be reached for a telephone interview. Aside from Blamey, the project included researchers from Western University, the

University of Glasgow in Scotland and was led by professor John Parnell at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

The project says scientists crush samples of six meteorites found on Earth that originated from Mars. Those crushed samples yielded

methane gas which, as it does on this planet, could provide food for micro-organisms.

The finding "provides a strong indication that rocks on Mars contain a large reservoir of methane," Parnell says in a news release from Brock University.

"So while we cannot say that this discovery is proof of the existence of life on Mars, it gives strong encouragement to continue looking for methane sources that could support life."

rob.houle@summedia.ca

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **LIQUOR:** Niagara part of craft beer boom

## Craft beer booming at 'rapid pace'

**RAY SPITERI**

Postmedia Network

Call it the rise of the little guy.

And everyone, even government, is taking notice. The craft-beer industry employs more than 1,000 people in direct brewery jobs — almost double the number from 10 years ago.

In 2014-15, LCBO sales of Ontario craft beer grew to more than \$68 million, up almost 36% over the previous year.

The phenomenon has hit Niagara, with several local craft brewers opening up locations and a teaching brewery program being offered at Niagara College.

Niagara College brewmaster professor Jon Downing said since the program began in 2010, it has grown from one to four classes. Even that can't keep up with the 200 to 300 people who apply each year.

He said college statistics show 90% to 95% of graduates go on to future employment in the industry, but his numbers show "every single one of our graduates are employed, they all had jobs in breweries."

"The demand for students is there because the industry is growing at such a rapid pace," said Downing.

To celebrate the growth in the industry, Ontario recently concluded a 10-day, province-wide Craft Beer Week, which recognized the thriving, locally based craft-beer market and exposed consumers to the craft-beer experience.

Now in its sixth year, Ontario Craft Beer Week featured events at breweries, pubs, restaurants and venues across the province, such as tasting events, brewery tours, food pairings and music nights.

The continued growth in the craft-beer industry is one reason the provincial government is modernizing Ontario's beer retailing and distribution system, including opening up ownership in the network of Beer Stores to all Ontario beer makers, creating a new craft category to profile craft beer in the Beer Store, and requir-

ing the Beer Store to devote a minimum of 20% of available shelf space to small brewers.

Starting this December, beer sales will be available in some grocery stores, and will eventually be expanded to up to 450 grocery-store locations across the province, giving Ontarians more convenience and choice. All new private retailers will be required to support the sale of small brewers' products.

According to the government, these measures represent the most significant changes to the province's alcohol retailing sector in nearly 90 years.

Downing estimates about 100 breweries have opened across Ontario during the last five years.

"There are 10 to 15 opening a year in the GTA alone," he said. "Five breweries in Hamilton opened the last year or so."

And it's not just the big cities, said Downing.

"If Ridgeway can support a brewery (Brimstone Brewing Company), I think any community in Ontario can."

He said craft beer is a true local industry. For example, Downing said local farmers in Niagara are growing hops for local brewers.

"It's local people supporting local people. There's a sense of community."

When Eric Martin opened Taps in Virgil in 2004, the brewery scene in Niagara and Ontario was not as crowded.

"At that time there were no other brewers in Niagara-on-the-Lake and probably 30 breweries in all of Ontario. There's about 200 now. There seems to be one opening every week."

Now located on Queen St., in Niagara Falls, Taps has become a central figure in the downtown's ongoing revitalization efforts.

Martin, who is a co-owner of Taps, said he has noticed the public's taste for beer has changed over the years.

"People's tastes are more complex — they're always looking for more choices, varieties, flavours and that's a good thing."

Fergie Duncan, a bar man-

ager at Silversmith Brewing Company, said since opening in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2011, business has been booming.

He said the success has

allowed Silversmith to distribute throughout local bars, events and restaurants across Ontario.

"We've hired several more people. It's been nothing but



**Richard Brown**  
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growing," said Duncan. "We're expecting our busiest summer ever. We're grateful for the support of locals. People have discovered they like good-

tasting beer and they can get it close to home."

ray.spiteri@postmedia.ca  
Twitter: @RaySpiteri



**RAY SPITERI/POSTMEDIA NETWORK**

Phil Everett, head brewer at Taps, makes sure all is good with a batch of craft beer being brewed at the Queen St. business in Niagara Falls.

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## CRIME



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A Crystal Beach couple fears their Smart Car may be a write-off after pranksters tipped it on its side overnight recently.

## Tipping prank may have wrecked Smart Car

JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

What started as a prank has cost a Crystal Beach couple their car.

On a recent Saturday morning, Brenda Arndt and partner Gerry Cumming were woken up by a police officer informing them their Smart Car was tipped on its side overnight by pranksters.

They weren't thrilled with the broken window and mirror, but could understand why people were amused. It was a funny image seeing their tiny car tipped like a cow. "It's pretty funny, but it's also expensive," she said.

A CAA truck was called to help get the car upright again, then the real problems started.

The car wouldn't start. And when the insurance adjuster told them to take the plates off and empty the vehicle before they towed it away, they realized it wasn't just a simple prank any more.

"They phoned Gerry and said 90% of the time things like this make the car a write-off," she said. "It was a big surprise. They're talking like there was such a slim chance it wouldn't be written off, it wasn't even

worth taking it to our own mechanic."

The 2005 Smart FourTwo, owned by Cumming, was tipped over on Lincoln Dr. Because the couple had a motor home parked in their driveway, they had to park the car about 20 metres down the road.

It proved too tempting for pranksters, who left their hand prints on their car. Cumming counted four people who took part.

Arndt said the car had about 120,000 kilometres on the odometer, and was worth about \$6,000. It was convenient to tow down south for the winter because of its size.

"I'm going to miss it like crazy. I loved that car," she said. "Kids need to know what kind of damage their crazy stunts can cause. I would be willing to bet that at least some of those kids would not have tipped our car had they known how damaging it was."

She has another message for the culprits: Your "prank" is now a criminal offence with damage over \$5,000.

"They better hope they don't get caught."

[john.law@postmedia.ca](mailto:john.law@postmedia.ca)

## POLICE

# Scammers targeting student job seekers, police warn

**ROB HOULE**  
Postmedia Network

Students looking to make money this summer beware, scammers are banking on you being willing to pay to work.

Niagara Regional Police Det. Klara Dowd said last Thursday the NRP had received approximately 14 complaints since January, mostly from students who have been ripped off after posting online they are looking for work.

The scam works like this: Someone posts an ad on Kijiji that says they are looking for work. They are then contacted by someone purporting to be an employer and a meeting is arranged for

an interview at a coffee shop or other public location.

"During the meeting, he advises them that, 'Yes, you know what? You'll work out great. But prior to you starting your job, we need to get you some training,'" Dowd said, adding the job seeker can also be told they require certain work clothing, such as steel-toed boots.

"He says, 'For this, I require payment up front, and I will register you for the courses and I will get you safety equipment.' So up front, he is asking for cash," Dowd said.

If the job seeker doesn't have the money on them, the scammer provides

an advance cheque and asks him/her to cash it, and then remit the fee. The worthless cheque is cashed, the scammer makes off with the money and the job seeker never hears from him again.

On average, Dowd said, job seekers are relieved of \$250.

She said the scam has been played out across the region.

Those who wish to leave an anonymous tip related to the scam can contact Crime Stop-

pers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), go online at [www.nagaratips.com](http://www.nagaratips.com) or text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword Niagara, then your tip.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ POLITICS

### Falls man wants August civic holiday renamed Niagara Day



Port Colborne celebrates the August civic holiday with their Canal Days festival. Niagara Falls resident Clarke Bitter would like to see the holiday in the region renamed Niagara Day to celebrate such attractions across the peninsula.

**RAY SPITERI**

Postmedia Network

It's Simcoe Day in Toronto and Benjamin Vaughan Day in Vaughan.

Clarke Bitter thinks it's time politicians in this region name the August civic holiday Niagara Day to "celebrate everything Niagara."

"Until your civic government names it something, it's simply the civic holiday and that's the most boring name for a holiday in the world," the Niagara Falls resident said.

The civic holiday, which is celebrated on the first Monday of August, is known by many names in different provinces and municipalities.

He said he hopes Niagara Region will proclaim the holiday Niagara Day in time for 2016, with volunteer committees set up at the region and in all 12 Niagara municipalities to help guide future celebrations.

He said while communities have special events planned for that long weekend, such as Port Colborne with Canal Days, Bitter believes more can be done to promote civic pride across the peninsula.

"I'm sick and tired of hearing negatives about Niagara. Let's talk about what's good here," he said.

For example, Bitter said Niagara Falls has the falls as well as a history of power generation. Niagara-on-the-

Lake is wine country with a lot of history. Fort Erie has one of the oldest horse race tracks in North America, while Welland's Merritt Park amphitheatre stage and canal could play a major role in Niagara Day celebrations.

"It would be a good way to get people from nearby states and Ontario to come to Niagara and not just Niagara Falls," he said.

"Maybe we could find a way to sponsor a Niagara Day stakes race in Fort Erie, or find a way to hold a New Year's Eve-style concert in Queen Victoria Park in the summer. There's different ways to celebrate."

Niagara Region deputy clerk Natasha Devos said the region has reached out to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for guidance in this process, but as of Tuesday afternoon, had not yet received a response.

"At this time, staff has only been able to find examples of single and lower-tier municipalities changing the name of the August holiday," she said.

"It is possible that an action such as this by Niagara Region, an upper-tier municipality, may require a triple majority support. Staff will continue to investigate."

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### A Star Wars weekend in Port Colborne



MARYANNE FITZPATRICK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Jace Anakin Russell has some fun using his powers during the third annual Jace Wars fundraiser on Saturday in Port Colborne, Ont. The Star Wars-themed event, which drew hundreds of people to Royal Canadian Legion, supports Ronald McDonald House Hamilton and McMaster Children's Hospital.



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **POLICING:** Controversial police practice under scrutiny by province

## New rules for street checks

RAY SPITERI  
Postmedia Network

Niagara Regional Police Services Board chair Bob Gale says it's "wise" of the province to establish rules to ensure street checks are done without bias and in a way that promotes public confidence.

The Ontario government announced it's moving to standardize police street checks. During the summer, it will consult with community organizations, policing partners, civil liberty groups and the public to develop a set of rules to govern the controversial practice.

The government said its approach will be based on respect for individual human and Charter rights, while recognizing the need for police to keep Ontario's communities safe.

"I'm happy the province is stepping in. This is an issue throughout North America," said Gale.

Niagara Regional Police call the process street checks, while Toronto police call it carding, because of the contact cards used to collect personal information from a people who aren't suspected of a

crime.

The interaction starts when an officer approaches someone and strikes up a conversation. The officer asks for identification. The officer records the details electronically.

Critics have blasted the process for targeting black people and others from ethnic minorities.

"Public trust in police is essential for building even safer communities," said Yasir Naqvi, minister of community safety and correctional services.



CLIFF PRIEST

"We recognize that some police street-check practices erode that trust. That is why we are moving forward on putting in place

practices to sustain and bolster trust, while giving the police the tools they need to do their work. Every Ontarian must have the confidence that their interactions with police are governed by the

principles of fairness, respect and dignity."

Cliff Priest, president of the Niagara Region Police Association, said he's not sure how Toronto police perform their checks, but that it has proved valuable to Niagara officers.

"We're not targeting people," he said, adding street checks have been part of modern policing for more than a century.

"It's an important part of our policing toolbox."

Gale said policing has changed from when he was officer for eight years. He left the industry in 1980.

"When I was a police officer, we asked questions, but it was not entered into a computer," he said.

"If you go to the scene of a break-in and if a person is right in front of it, you want to be able to ask questions. But if you're pulling people at random... that doesn't sit well with me."

Priest said Niagara police "don't just willy-nilly stop people."

He also provided examples of where street checks assisted Niagara police in investigations, such as helping to narrow down suspects

in the Paul Bernardo case and the solving of a homicide in London, Ont. that involved a suspect who had been in St. Catharines.

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire said he supports the province's desire to want to standardize police practices because there are



BOB GALE

"Inconsistencies between police services on how things are handled."

He said the NRP, and the Ontario Association of

Chiefs of Police, which he becomes president of on Wednesday for a one-year period, looks forward to working with the government on creating standards.

"There is certainly a need to balance the rights of individuals with our mandate of maintaining public safety," said McGuire.

During a recent online Postmedia Network Chat with the Chief segment, McGuire said he defends street checks,

### THE DETAILS

As part of Ontario's plan to standardize police street checks, the province will seek input from partners on a number of topics, including:

- Circumstances when police may ask individual for information
- Rights of those being asked for their information
- How to enhance accountability mechanisms, training requirements
- Data collection, retention

as long as they aren't racially motivated.

He said while it's a "very delicate balance," there is "tremendous investigative value in some of the interactions."

McGuire, who spent 35 years in Toronto as a police officer and investigator before moving to Niagara, said an individual has the right to walk away without answering questions.

"If the officer believes you have been involved in something, he has to take the next step," he said.

"He has the authority of investigative detention. He can stop you and talk to you, but he has to be able to justify that. There has to be a reason."

Gale said he looks forward to McGuire's presentation to the police services board at its June 25 meeting. It's expected McGuire will talk about how Niagara police deal with street checks and will allow board members to ask questions.

"It's good to have this discussion. We, as a board, can make a policy, but we will want it to centre around the provincial guidelines."

ray.spiteri@sunmedia.ca  
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Jeff McGuire

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **TRAFFIC SAFETY:** Niagara detachment's record recognized with Ontario award

## OPP initiative curbing accidents

ALISON LANGLEY  
Postmedia Network

Focusing attention on areas plagued by collisions has proven successful for Jan Idzenga.

Concerned by the number of crashes on Niagara highways, the staff sergeant at the Niagara detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police pored over reports and statistics and discovered consistent, repetitive patterns in collisions.

"I did a traffic analysis of all the collisions in our area dating back to 2007 and found that the crashes were happening in the same place. It was becoming repetitive, and we had to find a way to change that pattern."

To address the issue, he developed a traffic strategy with three main components: hot spot analysis and directed patrol, community policing, and collision prevention through environmental design.

The main hot spot, Idzenga said, was the stretch of the QEW between Mountain Rd. and the west end of the Garden City Skyway.

"We started dedicated patrols. There was always a car in that area," he said.

Idzenga's research also indicated a large number of collisions occurred on highway ramps.

"A lot of people would enter those ramps way too fast," he said.

The OPP worked with the Ministry of Transportation to address some pavement issues and to add signs and road markings to warn motorists.

"The crashes were reduced astronomically," Idzenga said. He also reached out to the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission and the Peace Bridge Authority to address the issue of dangerous bottlenecks at the border.

"When the bridge traffic backs up onto the QEW, we can get lines for miles at the border," he said.

Several fatal accidents occurred in the mid-2000s when vehicles travelling the



OPP STAFF SERGEANT JAN IDZENGA

highway collided with stopped or slow-moving trucks near the rear of the line.

To ease U.S.-bound truck traffic, the Peace Bridge now opens a staging yard where transport trucks can park until the delay is cleared.

The OPP's traffic strategy resulted in substantial collision reductions and, most notably, an 80% reduction in fatalities.

"We went from having an average of 10 fatalities a year down to two," Idzenga said.

The successful campaign caught the attention of the law enforcement community.

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) recently awarded the Niagara detachment with the 2015 traffic safety award of excellence.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Transportation, the award is presented to the police organization creating, developing, and implementing Ontario's most successful traffic safety program during the past year.

"Careful planning and execution of road safety strategies is critically important in promoting safe roads across Ontario," said Supt. Gord Jones, co-chairman of the OACP Traffic Committee.

"We congratulate the OPP Niagara Detachment for its dedicated efforts in reducing the traffic-related collisions."

alison.langley@postmedia.ca  
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Off the beaten path along the Grand River

GEORGE BAILEY  
Travel

**T**he drive to Caledonia, Ont., from Pelham is about 90 minutes, but like most of my trips, I like to stop along the way so it takes longer. My first stop was in Cayuga where I explored historic Ruthven Park, after which I continued along Hwy. 54 west to Caledonia and the Grand River Cruise Lines where I took a three-hour lunch cruise on the Grand River. After that I continued 10 minutes down the road to Ohsweken for a visit to the Six Nations of the Grand River Indian Reserve. This is a lazy drive devoid of heavy traffic much of which travels parallel to the scenic Grand River. You'll see lots of old barns, a few

roadside cemeteries, silos, lovely farm houses, and rusty abandoned cars in fields.

**Ruthven Park**  
(www.ruthvenpark.ca  
1-877-705-7273)

When I arrived the dew was still on the ground and there was not a soul to be seen. Ruthven Park is a national historic site located at 243 Haldimand Hwy. 54. The star attraction here is an elegant restored Greek Revival mansion built between 1845-47 as a family home. The mansion is set on a hill overlooking the Grand River. The park includes six different hiking trails and an old family cemetery. It's a family lover's paradise. Park admittance is by donation. To tour the mansion you'll have to visit between



Greek revival mid 1800s mansion found at Ruthven Park.

Wednesday and Sunday. The cost for adults is \$10 and seniors \$8.

### Downtown Caledonia

When I arrived in Caledonia's small downtown I parked my car and made a bee-line to the Jones Bakery, which was established in 1904. I grabbed a few of their mince pies, butter tarts and Empire Cookies because I knew there would be none left on my return trip home. Caledonia's nine-span bridge built in 1927 crosses the Grand River here and it's the only one of its kind in Canada.

### Grand River Cruises

(www.grandrivercruises.ca  
1-800-847-3321.)

It was a brilliant day. The sky was as clear as a pane of glass. It couldn't have been a nicer day to take the cruise. The flat-bottomed pontoon boat was piloted by Capt.

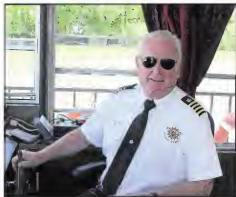
Bob King, who was also the narrator. He had lots of interesting things to tell us. For example we learned the Grand River is 275 kilometres long and flows from its source near Wareham, Ont., in the south and empties into Lake Erie in the north at Port Maitland near Dunnville.

The meal of roast beef, mashed potatoes, carrots and home baked bread followed by homemade apple pie was excellent. The cost of the lunch cruise including the meal was \$50 per person.

The cruises operate Tuesday through Sunday. Monday is set aside for groups with special needs.

### Six Nations Indian Reserve

When I left the boat I drove west along Hwy. 54 to the Six Nations Tourism Centre at the intersection of Chelmsford Rd. I must



PHOTOS BY GEORGE BAILEY/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Capt. Bob King at the wheel of one of the Grand River cruise boats.

confess I never thought of visiting the reserve until I spoke with Edith Styles, cultural co-ordinator of the centre. She agreed this is not a run-of-the-mill tourist place but non-native visitors are welcome.

I picked up a free map and guide of the reserve and started driving through the reserve.

Here are some of the things I learned.

■ The reserve consists of 18,616 hectares (46,000 acres) occupied by 12,000 people.

■ The manufacturing and selling of tobacco is the biggest resource for the community

■ Grand River Enterprises, on the reserve, is one of the largest worldwide producers of tobacco products. It's the reserves biggest employer.

■ There are six elementary schools, one high school and

a polytechnic university.

■ You pay no taxes when you purchase goods from stores.

■ There are 13 churches.

■ There are two newspapers, a radio station and two arenas.

■ They have their own police force and paramedics.

■ Six Nations Speedway is popular with races are held every Friday night.

■ There's a farmers market every Saturday morning.

■ If you purchase gas it's about 10 cents cheaper per litre than gas sold outside the reserve.

■ There is one Inn, The Bear's Inn (www.thebearsinn.com) which has 14 rooms. Overnight rates run from \$70 to \$90 (no taxes). I've stayed here before and loved it. Everywhere I went on the reserve people went out of their way to help. I'll be back again.

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# LOCALNEWS

## Furry friends in fine form



PHOTOS BY MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK  
Volunteer David Gillies holds a 27-day-old lynx during the Ringtail Ranch and Rescue open house on Saturday in Wainfleet. Hundreds of people came out to learn more about the family run, nonprofit animal rescue organization.



Marilyn Rogge, Owen Troup and Korinne March were joined by a special guest for lunch during the Ringtail Ranch and Rescue open house on Saturday in Wainfleet. Hundreds of people came out to learn more about the family-run, non-profit animal rescue organization.



Aianna Rolleman feeds a lemur during the Ringtail Ranch and Rescue open house on Saturday, June 20, 2015, in Wainfleet, Ont. Hundreds of people came out to learn more about the family-run, non-profit animal rescue organization.

## BEAT THE TRAFFIC

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Learn more about how events at the Royal Canadian Henley Rowing Course and Welland Pan Am Flatwater Centre July 11 to 15 will affect traffic in the Niagara region. Get ready today.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ ACCOLADES

### Fonthill Rotarians award Paul Harris Fellows



SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left, Andrew Larmand, Todd Barber, Gerry Berkhout and Mary Beattie representing Dorothy Rungeling were given Paul Harris Fellow Awards June 16 during an evening of celebration at Sparrow Lakes Golf Course, put on by Rotary Club of Fonthill.

For Pelham News

Rotary Club of Fonthill celebrated service to the community June 16 by presenting four Paul Harris Fellow Awards.

Paul Harris Fellows are named after the founder of Rotary International, and are given to an individual or group who has demonstrated the Rotary motto of Service Above Self.

The 2015 recipients exemplify service to the community in many ways, and together add up to more than a century of service in Pelham.

Todd Barber, owner of Forestgreen Creations, was honoured for his generosity to the community, and for the lasting legacy he has created in iconic structures such as the downtown Fonthill arches.

Gerry Berkhout was honoured for more than four decades' service to Pelham,

including 24 years running the Pelham Community Food Drive.

Andrew Larmand is a member of the Rotary Club of Fonthill who was honoured for his work within the club, and for the contributions he makes through church and community work.

Dorothy Rungeling was honoured for a remarkable legacy in aviation, active lifestyles and the arts. Rungeling, 104 years of age, was unable to attend the evening ceremony, but will be presented with her award in a separate celebration in the near future. Her friend Mary Beattie was on hand for the rewards night to accept on her behalf.

To learn more about the community work of the Rotary Club of Fonthill, visit [rotaryclubofonthill.ca](http://rotaryclubofonthill.ca).



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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ 22ND ANNUAL FEAST

### Kim Mitchell to headline Niagara Food Festival

ALLAN BENNER  
Postmedia Network

Kim Mitchell will be the main music course, served with a heaping side dish of Niagara's own talent, when Niagara Food Festival returns to downtown Welland Sept. 11 to 13.

The Canadian rock icon will headline the festival's Saturday night concert lineup that also features Niagara-based rock bands The Mandevilles and Street Pharmacy opening.

The Peninsula's Tastiest Party will live up to its name by featuring a growing list of food vendors for the 22nd annual festival, said Niagara Food Festival chair Erica Walters during a media launch at Welland Civic Square.

"Most importantly about the food festival is we have 35

vendors who will be putting the food back into the Niagara Food Festival, including a handful of new vendors and traditional favourites," Walters said.

Additional vendors are still being added to the lineup.

The entertainment begins Friday evening "with a definite local flair," featuring Redline, Wednesday's Engine and Orangeman — Niagara-based rock bands that have each "gathered a huge local following."

Sunday, the festival teams up with Niagara country music station Country 89, bringing the River Junction Band, and Brad Battle to the stage.

A new attraction was added to this year's festival — a ticketed event called the Patio Lantern Party, giving people

"up-close stage access, a semi-private bar and a chance to win four backstage passes to meet Kim Mitchell," Walters said.

"Don't worry, if you happen to miss out on the limited number of tickets for sale, we'll be giving our guests a chance to win tickets and special VIP packages, and other prizes through social media contests on our Facebook and Twitter pages," she added.

Since its inception, Walters said, the festival has grown into one of Niagara's premier events.

"We have created a great Niagara tradition that brings thousands of hungry Niagara visitors to downtown Welland each year with fantastic local and national entertainment and community centred events," she said.

"This year we plan to return

back to our roots and celebrate the many things that the Niagara region is famous for, from local artisans and farmers to chefs."

In addition to the food and music, local chefs will have a chance to showcase their talents in a series of Black Box Challenges on the festival's Mobile Culinary Theatre. Canadian barbecue chef Ted Reader will be the guest emcee during the final hour of the competition, as top local chefs vie for a chance to compete at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

The stage will also feature local chefs who have demonstrated their skill on Food Network Canada television programs, such as Erin Smith, a Port Colborne chef who was the top competitor on a recent episode of *Chopped Canada*.



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Board members Diane Chivers, left, and Erica Walters will be putting the food back into the Niagara Food Festival, Sept. 11 to 13 in downtown Welland.

The festival's craft and artisan market is also being expanded "with a renewed focus on balanced living in 2015."

While the event is sponsored by Niagara College, the City of Welland and Molson Coors Canada, the festival

board's secretary treasurer Diane Chivers said there are still opportunities for additional sponsorships.

Walters urged people to visit [www.niagarafestival.com](http://www.niagarafestival.com), and the festival's Facebook page for up to date information.

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# LOCAL NEWS

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■ **MUSIC:** 'I'd love to turn this area into a Disneyland for arts'



MARK DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea, organizers of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival, are pictured at the launch party at Two Sisters Vineyard in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

## Jazz fest goes through growth spurt

**JOHN LAW**  
Postmedia Network

They're already Niagara's jazz power couple. So when it came time to kick start a regional jazz fest, Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea were thinking long term.

"Our vision is, I'd love to turn this area into a Disneyland for arts," says Shea. "I'd like art and culture to be synonymous with this region, like it is in New Orleans."

"I think the framework's here," adds his wife Dunn. "We need to convince some people still that it's possible. Sometimes, around here, we don't realize how great it is what we have. When I drive around I take a lot of the back roads, and I have to pinch myself. 'There's vineyards?' It's like living in France."

Last year's inaugural TD Niagara Jazz Festival attracted about 3,000 people for 20 artists in a handful of venues. This year it will more than double in size, offering 35 bands, 200 artists and more than 20 venues throughout the region. It also goes from three to four days, running July 23 to 26.

Details were announced during a launch party at Two Sisters Vineyard in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The flagship event will be July 24 at Jackson-Triggs Winery, with headline Michael Kaeshammer.

Other acts throughout the festival include Bobi Botos, Barbara Liza, Heilig Manoeuvre and Big Rude Juke. Local artists include Khea Emmanuel, the Niagara String Band, Vox Violins, Sarah Jerrom Trio and John Sherwood Swinigan Quintet.

Shows will take place in wineries, restaurants, parks and cafes. Dunn says weekend packages will enable festival-goers to stay and have a "unique Niagara experience" over four days.

**WHAT:** TD Niagara Jazz Festival

**WHERE:** Various locations

**WHEN:** July 23 to 26

**TICKETS:** [www.niagarajazzfestival.com](http://www.niagarajazzfestival.com) or 1-844-548-5299

"Niagara is worthy," says Dunn, who started her career as a singer/actress in France. "So many times, people say to me, 'You lived in Paris, France for 13 years — what are you doing in St. Catharines?' And it really irks me. I'm always defending it, going, 'No, it's really great.'"

"The potential is bubbling," adds Shea. "There's so much here. I think it's serendipitous (Juliet and I) are back in the region. I was born and raised here."

"We want to pass on this legacy. What I was given when I came up, I want to give more. That's why we're trying to keep arts and music and culture alive, because society needs it. I don't think they're aware how desperate they need it."

Shea, the festival's artistic director, is aiming for 10,000 people for the second year, despite a recent Nielsen music report which shows jazz's popularity among music buyers at an all-time low.

Whatever its sales figures, Shea says jazz is still a popular genre for festivals.

"It's the sense of community," he says. "I've seen young people go (out) and not even have a conversation ... they sit across from each other at a cafe and text each other."

"People are disconnecting from one another and this is one of the reasons festivals are making a comeback."

"Jazz might not be as popular, but the festivals are," adds Dunn. "People need human contact."

[john.law@summedia.ca](mailto:john.law@summedia.ca)



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## THEATRE

## Deadmau5 vs. 'Deadmouse' musical

JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

A Toronto musical about a DJ called 'Deadmouse' earned the wrath of the real-life Deadmau5 last Wednesday night.

Niagara Falls-born Joel Zimmerman had his lawyer Dina LaPoliti send the owners of the Al Green Theatre a cease-and-desist order, claiming trademark infringement for its upcoming production of *Deadmouse: The Musical*.

"How not to be creative," Zimmerman tweeted, followed by "and that's why it's always best to approach people before-hand."

Zimmerman later retracted the cease-and-desist order when the show's website stressed it was a "parody" and was "not written by Deadmau5 or endorsed by Deadmau5."

"There, the dead mouse musical debate is over," Zimmerman then tweeted. "They have just put up a disclaimer and called it a parody. Moving along now."

Producers said the show is about "a mouse who wants

to be a house DJ, but is discriminated against for being a mouse." It's populated with other characters based on real people, including David Guetta (David Guetta), and Avicci (Avicii). A character named Cat alludes to Zimmerman's former girlfriend, Kat Van D.

Actor/director Chris Baker stars as Joel Zimmermouse, who faces "tough decisions about how far he will go to become the No. 1 house music DJ, and on the way learns some valuable lessons about friendship, love, loyalty and the importance of remaining true to one's heart, no matter how small it may be."

The 60-minute show is part of Toronto's annual Fringe Festival, and runs at the 120-seat Al Green Theatre (750 Spadina Ave.) July 3 to 11.

It's co-written by Toronto's Rafe Malach, who brought the well-received First World War musical *A Simple Twist of Faith* to last year's Fringe Festival.

Malach declined to comment on the *Deadmouse: The Musical* controversy when con-

tacted last Thursday.

"We're waiting until everything dies down before talking about anything," he said.

Zimmerman was unavailable for comment.

Before the cease-and-desist was retracted, Zimmerman had some choice words for the show on Twitter.

"Where do I send the bill for all this f---ing promo?" he asked.

Veteran Fringe Festival writer Steve Fisher of website *Torontoist* also waded into the fray, criticizing Zimmerman for attempting to close the show and comparing him to Disney, which is attempting to block Zimmerman from trademarking his familiar mousehead logo on the grounds it's too similar to Mickey Mouse.

"They're emerging artists, Joel," Fisher wrote. "You're Disney in this new (cease-and-desist) scenario, only more litigious."

When Zimmerman then commented: "Drama, it's what's for breakfast," Fisher lashed back: "That your appetite for it leads to a courtroom instead



BOB TYMCZYSZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Falls native Joel Zimmerman — re: Deadmau5 — threatened legal action against a Toronto musical bearing the name 'Deadmouse,' but relented when producers clarified the show was a parody. It runs during the Toronto Fringe Festival starting July 3.

of seeing how it plays out on a Toronto Fringe stage is said."

When contacted Thursday, Fisher said he was "initially surprised" by Zimmerman's reaction, "but I very quickly realized why he did what he did. He had people tweeting at him 'Fantastic! There's a musical about your life!'"

"I think it was very clear from the Fringe listing that it's not a biography or any author-

ized story of him. He was not an actual singing mouse in his early career."

The resulting brouhaha has people talking about the show, he said, and it'll likely sell out all seven scheduled performances.

"Their publicity budget will be the cast members handing out fliers on the street," says Fisher. "So for them, aside from the brief fear yesterday they

would have to be cancelled, this is all turning out to be gold for them."

And night Zimmerman be in attendance?

"Joel just left to go to Europe, so it's not likely he's going to catch the run. It's a shame because I'm sure they'll have comps for him for any show he wanted to see."

john.law@sunmedia.ca



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